

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1916.

RUMANIA'S WEIGHT IN THE WAR-SCALES.

Romania's agricultural and mineral resources are valuable when thrown into the scales with the Allies but what the Entente Powers want most of King Ferdinand I is his active aid in clearing a road for Russian troops to enter the Balkans.

A few days ago a Russian brigade was landed at Saloniki. To reach this Greek port the Slavs were taken from Archangel around the western coast of the British Isles and through the Mediterranean, now strewn with Teuton mines and traversed by Teuton submarines. That the Allies took the Russian troops over this route is proof of their need of a mass of men to throw at the Teuton-Bulgar lines in the Balkans.

But now Russia can send her men through Rumania and the soldiers of the two nations can strike at Bulgaria and probably open a way to cut at the Turkish supply line which was established when the Teutons smashed down Serbian resistance in the Balkans. Turkey, it appears, will be isolated from the ammunition factories of the Central Powers, and meanwhile the Russians are approaching from the other side, through Armenia.

In fact, Rumania's entrance brings a multitude of factors to play on the side of the Allies. We notice that British diplomacy has already been given credit for the coup, but this is yet to be shown. The fact is that of the foreign ministers resident in Bucharest, the Russian, Poklewski Kozielli, is credited with being by all odds the best equipped for the devious intrigues of Rumanian diplomacy. He is not only an excellent schemer but is said to have a larger exchequer at his disposal than any other minister. The frankness with which this is discussed makes an American think of the "slush-funds" of the home-brew politicians. Minister Faschlotti of Italy is acknowledged to be the intriguer par excellence of the corps, and Count de St. Hilaire of France, who recently arrived, was understood to bring with him a copy of a new treaty with the Allies. This may be the treaty whose signing took Rumania into the Entente camp.

Bucharest, always one of the picturesque cities of Europe, and one where international scheming is a favorite indoor sport, has been more picturesque and plotful than ever since the war broke out. It has been the battleground of contending diplomacy, from which the Allies have emerged victors. They have now on their side all the resources of wheat, barley, maize, oats, cattle, horses, vegetables and fruits of a very productive country. Rumania has great petroleum beds, vineyards and coal fields, excellent fisheries and much timber. It is a moderately rich country and has acquired much additional wealth through its clever use of neutrality to sanctify commercial bargains with both sides.

THE "SHORT-BALLOT" PLAN FOR HONOLULU.

Mr. A. F. Judd's letter to Supervisor Francis M. Hatch, published by the Star-Bulletin yesterday, contains a number of suggestions for improvement in municipal affairs which deserve thoughtful consideration. Some of them the Star-Bulletin will discuss later. A point to which this paper desires particularly to call attention now is set forth by Senator Judd as follows:

The municipal act, as it now is with but few changes, can be made over so as to concentrate responsibility and authority. Let us build on our own experience rather than copy others. We know our present system. Let us change it where necessary so that we voters shall ballot only for the mayor, supervisors and the auditor. Let all the other officers be appointed. The appointing power will then be responsible for them. Such is not now the case, and the result is complicated.

He further suggests a variation of the above, to create a board of four men and the mayor, each with executive functions, and points out that this would be no novelty to native voters, who were familiar with a similar plan under the monarchy. Senator Judd's suggestion, quoted above, is in effect the establishment of the "short-ballot" system in Honolulu city government.

The "short-ballot" plan has been favored for four years by many students of our municipal affairs. The Municipal Research Club is pledged to this principle; many businessmen favor it. The Star-Bulletin has repeatedly told why we believe it would be effectively applicable here.

What has damned this plan in the eyes of many voters is the fact that it sometimes goes by the name of commission government. And commission government in local affairs has been confused with military commission government for Oahu under Washington supervision. This confusion has in some cases been intentionally caused by designing politicians who play on prejudice.

Senator Judd finds a painful lack of interest in city affairs on the part of the business leaders. He would give the city officials broader powers and concentrate responsibility instead of scattering it among many. The principle is sound and it is the principle to which American cities are coming steadily.

Cut down the number of elective offices; give the elected officials plenty of work, plenty of re-

sponsibility; hold them to results; let the business of government be carried on in plain sight of the taxpayers—and the taxpayers realize the direct relationship between electing good officials and getting good, efficient and economical government. Once this is fully realized, the man of large property finds that it is to his interest to take personal part in politics, cleanly and vigorously.

Local government has come to Honolulu to stay unless the carelessness and indifference of the so-called "haole voter" allows Honolulu government to run down at the heel. It has come to stay unless through criminal folly, waste and negligence this city forces Washington to take a hand to ensure law, order and progress in one of its greatest military stations.

The Star-Bulletin sees no likely prospect for such an unfortunate development. Local government has made good in principle and in operation, though it could be vastly improved. But it must continue not only to make reasonably good, but to make notably good. We cannot stand still. We cannot move at a snail's pace and expect American ideals of civic progress to be stamped upon the minds and characters of thousands of alien-blood youths coming to maturity. We cannot sit down and expect some mysterious law of nature to evolve an American community out of a heterogeneous mass. There is a job to be done and we have got to do it.

Activity in local politics is one vital part of doing this job. Not the activity of a professional politician but the activity of a citizen doing his share to get good men to run for office and to elect them when they do run.

By reducing the number of elected offices and placing more power in the hands of those elected, Honolulu can make it not only advisable but absolutely necessary to the welfare of this city that progressive, brainy, stalwart men be kept in charge of Honolulu affairs.

Honolulu can make it necessary for the laymen elected to office to employ experts for the jobs that require experts. Honolulu can afford to give a city engineer \$10,000 or twice that a year if he is big enough to earn it in private practice. And Honolulu will not expect officials to achieve the impossible, as is sometimes now the case, with neither the authority nor the means to hire the best brains and technical equipment available.

Senator Judd's suggestions are sound, and men and organizations of Honolulu are justified in getting behind them with support.

WET TERRITORY NARROWING.

It is estimated that one-half the population living in wet territory lives in four states. One-sixth of it lives in six cities. One-half the saloons in the United States are in fourteen cities. In a list of thirty-six states there are fewer saloons than in New York City. There are fewer saloons south of the Mason and Dixon line than in the city of Chicago. There are about 2900 counties in the United States and over 1800 are now dry.

Watch the daily papers for announcements of the exact date for organization of the Aero Club of Hawaii—then attend the meeting and join. Support for the club through its early stages will make it one of the famed organizations of America.

What we don't understand is how Rumania was allowed to get into this scrap without first issuing a White, Yellow, Green or Pink Book. We thought it wasn't done in the best war circles.

Systematic and forceful paid publicity used by the railroads in the advertising columns of the mainland dailies has been a powerful factor in winning public sentiment to the side of the employers.

The hardships of the railroad crisis fall no more heavily anywhere than on the shoulders of the luckless congressmen who ought to be out in their districts mending political fences.

King Constantine of Greece has undergone a slight surgical operation, says a "despatch. The Allies have been operating on his country right along.

The Republican nominees for territorial house and senate are beginning to shape up as prospectively very good timber.

An editor from Tokio says war will end next summer. Somebody's guess on the length of the conflict is likely to be lucky.

"Balked in the Balkans, or, What Happened to the Teutons," is announced for fall publication.

Labor Day is highly appropriate as the strike date for 400,000 railroad men.

Having sold a large consignment of wheat to Austria, Rumania is now going over and take it back.

Trail and Mountain Club's next feat should be to traverse Kalakaua avenue.

Are you booked for the Hilo Civic Convention trip? Obey that impulse!

The Rumanians are in.

Letters of TIMELY TOPICS

[Editor's note—The Star-Bulletin has received several letters from readers which it cannot publish because they are unsigned or signed with initials only. It is necessary for the full name to be enclosed as a proof of good faith, though if the letter is within bounds of propriety and contains no personal attack, it will be published with initials only.]

SPEAK WELL OF EACH OTHER

Honolulu, Aug. 28, 1916.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: In your evening paper of August 25 appeared a letter in answer to a letter entitled "Follower of the Flag," signed A. John. Please allow me space in your valuable paper. There are some facts in his letter, and in some ways a little exaggerated. No doubt Mr. John is one of the many soldiers who wish to be respected and welcomed by the better class of Honolulu, but how can we expect to accomplish this if we are a constant knocker to ourselves. It's true the ranks are filled with many different nationalities, and we all know it takes such to make an army, and personally I don't think it becoming for any soldier to make public his grouches, and possible jealousy towards his comrades. The opinion the ignorant class has of us does not matter, but if we cannot speak well of each other it is much nicer not to speak at all. Thanking the editor for the space and time,
W. F. MUSE.

ANOTHER KIND OF "BUMPS"

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: A condition that has to do with the sidewalks in various parts of the city needs the attention of somebody, looking toward correction. I refer to the offsets or sudden depressions crossing our sidewalks, ostensibly made so for the convenience of vehicles passing from the street to the inclosure. While these offsets may be necessary in some instances, they occur in many places throughout the heart of the city, where no traffic ever crosses the sidewalks. There is one such place on Hotel street in front of the vacant lot at the corner of Hotel and Richards streets. Yesterday two ladies approached this fool arrangement, apparently deeply interested in conversation. Suddenly one of the ladies fell flat on her face, the fall being occasioned by the offset in the sidewalk. The lady received a severe wrench of the ankle and other bruises. There seems to be no need for that particular offset, as no team ever crosses the sidewalk at that point. Let me ask, why should pedestrians stumble and receive possible injuries day in and day out (the condition being 100 per cent worse after dark), that some possible vehicle may, in the course of a year or so, find it necessary to cross that sidewalk? Suppose that pedestrians demand that flagstones or cement crossings, raised six to eight inches above the level of the street, be placed at all street crossings for their convenience. What would the vehicle drivers think about it? It is a poor rule that won't work both ways.

It was not so many years ago that a visitor here broke her ankle by stepping into one of these offsets on Fort street, and made the city pay real handsomely for it. There is another beautiful (?) break-neck jog on the Ewa sidewalk of Nuuanu street, between Hotel and King streets.

OBSERVER.

SCISSELING THE STARRY FLAG

Honolulu, Aug. 27, 1916.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: The great demand in this city is not for an eight-hour work day, nor it is for a bureaucratic combination of capital into one gigantic monopoly, as Mr. Hughes would have the country turned into "a great business corporation." There are some things that cannot be mobilized under these headings, and one of them is personal liberty. But what's the use? There are other things that are condemned by the narrow-minded, such as sectional prejudice, by those who were not at Appomattox, so consequently how should they "know?" The insidious flout of license under the guise of liberty, and so forth. All this, this thing of self-conceit, is a hideous monstrosity, which mars the landscape of freedom. Through the jaundiced eye of malice, pride and envy, they try to set up a plutocracy that would surpass old Nero's for inequity, and, like wolves held together by a clannish rage, increase the freakish pandemonium until the last fizzle of the starry flag has scisselled. To check this demonic tendency it is necessary for a closer observance of truth, the outward semblance of which is respectable propriety. Education! Education ever the cry. Education is nothing if it is not universally civil conduct.

College Park!

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VITAL STATISTICS

BORN.
MABY—In Honolulu, August 26, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. William I. Maby of McInerney tract, off School street, a son—Irving.
AL CAZAR—In Honolulu, August 27, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Santiago D. Alcazar of 3416 Leahi avenue, a son—Edward.
BAKER—In Honolulu, August 26, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. John A. Baker of 715 Puuhale road, a son.
KING—In Honolulu, August 19, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Mark King of 1338 S. King street, a daughter.
SOUZA—In Honolulu, August 23, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Souza of Auwalolimu drive, a daughter—Agnes.
WOLTER—In Honolulu, August 28, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Wolter of 803 Young street, a son—Edward.
AFONG—At the Peninsula, Pearl City, Oahu, August 28, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Afong of 1633 Nuuanu avenue, a daughter.
WINANT—In Honolulu, August 28, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer T. Winant of 2361 East Manoa road, a daughter.
ASAM—In the Kapiolani Maternity Home, Honolulu, August 28, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Asam of 1409A Cunha lane, a son.
KAU—In Honolulu, August 28, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. K. Kau of 1119A Banyan street, Palama, a son—Edward.
NELSON—In Honolulu, August 22, 1916, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson of Kanakani street, a son—

men brought in from an auto accident.

A. G. M. ROBERTSON: While the oarsmen have under consideration the matter of the course for the coming regatta, it is to be hoped that they will carefully consider the suggestion that the races be rowed in the smooth water of the inner harbor. If a three-quarter mile stretch can be staked off, the senior crews could row it with two turns, making a two and a quarter mile race. The juniors and freshmen could row it with one turn, making a mile and a half. This would give the public a better view of the races and ought to prove satisfactory to the crews.

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Kaimuki		

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1675 Kalakaua ave.	2 Bedrooms	\$25.00
744 Kinau st.	4 "	37.50
Cor. Alexander and Dole	3 "	35.00
12th ave., Kaimuki	2 "	15.00
1028 Piikoi st.	3 "	30.00
(Detached cottage, 1 bedroom.)		
Dewey Beach	2 "	20.00
Cor. Kaimuki and 7th ave.	6 "	45.00
1704 King st.	2 "	30.00
Pahoa ave.	2 "	25.00
(Bet. 6th and 7th aves.)		
1625 Makiki st.	6 "	80.00
(4 cottages in yard.)		
3338 7th ave., Kaimuki	3 "	30.00
1235 Matlock ave.	2 "	27.50
Manoa road	2 "	50.00

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